SCENE I.

The Same. Before Harfleur*

Alarums. Enter King HENRY, *EXETER, BEDFORD, GLOSTER> and Soldiers^ with Scaling Ladders.*

K. HEN. Once more unto the breach, dear friends, once more:
Or close the wall[6] up with our English dead!
In peace, there's nothing so becomes a man,
As modest stillness, and humility:
But when the blast of war blows in our ears,
Then imitate the action of the tiger[7];

[6] Or close the wall, &c.] Here is apparently a chasm. One line at least is lost, which contained the other part of a disjunctive proposition. The King's speech is, * clear friends, *either win the town*, or close up the wall with dead.' The old quarto gives no help. JOHNSON

I do not perceive the chasm which Dr Johnson complains of. What the King means to say is—[e] Re-enter the breach you have made, or fill it up with your own dead bodies.' i. e. Pursue your advantage, or give it up with your lives. Mount the breach in the wall, or repair it by leaving your own carcases in lieu of the stones you have displaced: in short—Do one thing or the other. So, in Church-yard's Siege of Edenbrough Castle:

«----we will possesse the place
<e Or leaue our bones and bowels in the breatch."

This speech of King Henry was added after the quartos 1600 and 1608. STEEVENS

7— when the blast of war blows in our ears
Then imitate the action of the tiger:] Sir Thomas Hanmer has observed on the following passage in Troilus and Cressida, that in *storms and high winds* the *tiger* roars and rages most furiously:

«---— even so
* Doth valour's show and valour's worth divide
* In storms of fortune: for, in her ray and brightness
* The herd hath more annoyance by the brize
[6] Than by the *tiger*: but when splitting winds

* Make flexible the knees of knotted oaks.